

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Atty. Docket

RAOUL FLORENT

PHF 99,548

Serial No.

Group Art Unit

Filed: CONCURRENTLY

Examiner:

Title: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD AND SYSTEM, AND MEDICAL EXAMINATION APPARATUS, FOR EXTRACTING A PATH FOLLOWING A THREADLIKE STRUCTURE IN AN IMAGE

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination,  
please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, line 1,

~~delete the heading in its entirety and  
insert the centered heading:  
--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.~~

Page 1, before line 11, ~~delete the heading in its entirety and  
insert the centered heading:~~

~~--OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.~~

Page 3, line 20,

~~delete the heading in its entirety.~~